

Application No. 10/733,979
Reply to Office action of September 27, 2004

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

All claims (*i.e.*, claims 1-31) as filed have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Weng, U.S. Patent No. 6,529,128.

Each of independent claims 1, 16 and 31 has been amended to clarify that the tester is a *human* tester and that the human tester triggers the alarm condition *at the device*. See, for example, paragraphs [20] and [22] of the Specification as filed. Thus the invention is a true "walk-through" test whereby the tester moves from device to device, triggering each in turn while getting information about the tested device over a communications channel, without the aid of a second person. No new matter has been added.

Weng does not describe such a system or method. Independent claims 1, 16 and 31 should therefore be allowable, and allowability of dependent claims 2-15 and 17-30 should follow.

Allowance of all pending claims, *i.e.*, claims 1-31, is respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (978) 731-7244.

Respectfully submitted,

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